United Nations A/53/521*

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 October 1998
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 112

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part I)**

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 5, 7 and 12 October 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/53/SR.3, 5 and 6).

3. For its consideration of the item the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) First report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, on the activities of the Advisory Committee during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly (A/53/7);

(b) Fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, on the administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/53/7/Add.3);

* Reissued for technical reasons.

** The report of the Committee on agenda item 112 will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/53/521 and addenda.

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(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/C.5/52/25);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/C.5/52/45).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

4. At the 6th meeting, on 12 October, the Chairman orally proposed a draft decision on the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the activities of the Advisory Committee during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly (A/53/7), which the Committee adopted without a vote (see para. 7, draft decision I).

B. Draft decision A/C.5/53/L.7

5. Also at the 6th meeting, the representative of the Bahamas, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of informal consultations, introduced a draft decision entitled "Administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO" (A/C.5/53/L.7).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/53/L.7 without a vote (see para. 7, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Activities of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly takes note with appreciation of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the activities of the Advisory Committee during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly[1] and requests the Secretary-General to bring the report to the attention of the executive heads of the specialized agencies of the United Nations and of the funds and programmes concerned.

[1] A/53/7.

Draft decision II

Administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

The General Assembly:

(a) Requests the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO to consider the proposals on new administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

(b) Further requests those bodies to submit their comments, as a matter of priority, for its consideration.

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[2] A/53/7/Add.3, para. 11.